

09/890265

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KIRPICHNIKOV et al

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: August 8, 2001

For: METHOD OF INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF
SAMPLE'S SURFACE

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smash
39-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-6, 8 and 17 as follows:

3. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1, characterized in, that a set of arguments are formed by values of cantilever's deviation force and/or coordinate of its fixed end and/or derivatives from cantilever's deviation force or coordinate of its fixed end at least in points of control; determination of parameters is carried out by forming a set functions, using received arguments and determination of their values.

4. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1, characterized in, that points, limiting quasi-rectilinear portions of force curve, and/or points, where force curve shifts slope jumpy, are chosen as points of control.